

**No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes**

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

**Top 10 National Pupil Progress**

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Families

I can't believe that this term is already nearly over! It has been the most unusual term of my teaching career but I am ever grateful to our team for ensuring that the children have had as close to a 'normal' experience as possible.

The festive feel has well and truly taken over the school and the children have been enjoying many festive crafts this week. A huge thanks to the Friends of Thurlestone School for paying for the arts and crafts materials used across the school. As well as making decorations for the village tree, which Year 6 kindly hung on behalf of the school, the children have also been busy making cards and decorations to bring home as well!

I hope you all enjoyed our live Nativity performances this week. Whilst they weren't quite the same as normal, the children all hugely enjoyed learning the songs, their words and the sense of community which an event like that brings. It was fabulous to be able to stage the performance in our hall complete with new stage, lights and sound equipment, again all paid for by the Friends of Thurlestone School. I must give a huge thank you to Mr Mucedero and Mr Fendick who generously gave up their time to support us in setting up the light and sound systems. It was hugely appreciated. We look forward to the time where we will be able to invite a live audience in for a performance!

I have included with this letter both reminders of all things COVID-19 related but also, important updates of what to do if your child tests positive during the Christmas break. Please take the time to read these guidelines so that we are able to keep everyone safe and play our part in beating this virus.

Have a festive weekend!

*L. Garside*

Miss L Garside  
Executive Head

### Friday 18th December

You will have seen in the press that the DfE announced earlier in the week that 'To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18th December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online, and bringing forward the start of term in January by the same number of days.'

This announcement was to ease the burden of track and trace impacting on school staff during the Christmas Break. However, after careful consideration about the impact that this short notice change of arrangements would have on our children and families, we have decided that our arrangements will stay as planned and **we will open as normal on this day.**



**All Saints' Thurlestone C of E Academy**  
Thurlestone,  
Devon, TQ7 3NB  
**T:** 01548 560494 **E:** thurlestone@lapsw.org  
**W:** thurlestone-lap.co.uk



**TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE**

### **Christmas Parties**

Next week, we are all looking forward to our Christmas parties! We are very grateful to the Friends of Thurlestone School who have generously funded the refreshments for each class. To add to the festive cheer, the children may wear their own clothes on the day of their party. Please ensure that the clothes are suitable and that the children still bring a coat for any inclement weather.

Monday 14th December	Butter Cove & Bantham
Wednesday 16th December	Sedgewell Cove
Thursday 17th December	Steeple Cove, Yarmer & Leas Foot

### **Christmas Cards**

We know that a lot of our families still like to send traditional Christmas cards. Can we ask that any cards that the children wish to send to their friends are in the post box by next Tuesday (15th) so that Santa's helpers can sort them and send them out on the last day of term.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

The Government has announced that they are providing vouchers over the Christmas period for families in receipt of free school meals. If you are entitled to these vouchers, you should have already received correspondence from Mrs Brodie. If you believe that you should be entitled and have not received any communication from Devon County Council, please contact the academy office.

### **National Christmas Guidance**

We have been asked to share the following information with you. More detailed information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

#### ***From 23 December to 27 December***

*From 23 December to 27 December, you may choose to form a [Christmas bubble](#).*

*A Christmas bubble will be able to spend time together in private homes, including second homes and caravans, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor place.*

*If you do form a Christmas bubble, you should not meet socially with friends and family you do not live with in your home or garden unless they are part of your Christmas bubble.*

*In all other settings, people should follow local restrictions in the [tier](#) in which they are meeting.*

*If you do not form a Christmas bubble, you should continue to follow the guidance for the tier you are in.*

#### ***From 28 December***

*From 28 December, you must follow the guidance for the tier in your area. Christmas bubbles will no longer apply*

### **Positive Cases Discovered During the Christmas Break**

If your child develops symptoms and subsequently tests positive for COVID within 48 hours of leaving school on the 18th December, please inform the school through our admin email [thurlestone@lapsw.org](mailto:thurlestone@lapsw.org). We will be regularly checking this account and should we have a positive test during this period, we will be actively supporting the 'Track and Trace' system to inform any families whose children may need to self-isolate.

If a child tests positive for the virus having developed symptoms more than 48 hours after leaving school on the 18th December, you do not need to contact the school.

### **If Your Child has to Isolate During the Christmas Break**

If, during the Christmas period, your child is informed that they need to isolate due to contact with a positive case then it is imperative that this isolation is completed. Any return to school should not happen until the 14 day isolation period is complete. If the child is well, then learning can be set online through Google Classroom or Tapestry for the children in the EYFS.